

MEMOIRS

AND INTERESTING

ADVENTURES

OF AN

Embroidered WAISTCOAT.

[Price Sixpence.]

MEMOIRS

AND INTERESTING

ADVENTURES

OF AN

Unexplored Wilderness

By J. H. [illegible]

MEMOIRS

AND INTERESTING

ADVENTURES

OF AN

Embroidered WAISTCOAT.

Ridentem dicere verum

Quid vetat?

HORAT.



LONDON:

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M.DCC.LI.

MEMOIRS

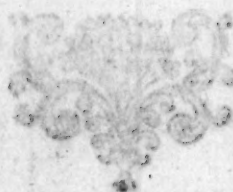
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ADVENTURES

OF A

Embroidered Waistcoat

By the Hon. John Lubbock, Esq.
F.R.S.



LONDON:
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tion. The high Character

which you sustain in Life

TO THE

W I T S

AT

White's, George's, and Sam's.

Gentlemen,

IT is with Reserve I pre-
sume to approach Perso-
nages of so great Distinc-
tion.

tion. The high Character which you sustain in Life, your Reputation for natural and acquired Accomplishments, corrected by a critical and severe Judgment, are sufficient to deter a Writer of greater Experience than myself, from laying their Works at your Feet; but as Candour and good Nature are essential Qualities to constitute a Wit, so I flatter myself, that a Work, which
per-

perhaps cannot claim your
 Approbation, may at least
 escape your Censure, and
 shall reckon myself happy, if
 by Means of the follow-
 ing Essay, I can purchase the
 Honour of having my Name
 mentioned with the illustri-
 ous Characters at *George's*,
Sam's, or *White's*, an Ho-
 nour which my Ambition,
 Vanity, or call it what you
 please, excites me to wish,
 by which I may be secure of
 Repu-

**Reputation, and a perpetual
Life in the Annals of Fame.**

escape your Censure, and
shall reckon myself happy, if

by Means of the follow-

GENTLEMEN, &c.

Honour of having my Name

mentioned with the illustri-

ous Characters at George's

School, or Whits, an Hon-

our which my Ambition,

Vanity, or call it what you

please, excites me to wish,

by which I may be secure of

Repu-



MEMOIRS

AND INTERESTING

ADVENTURES

OF AN

Embroidered WAISTCOAT,

HE Success of a late Pamphlet
of my writing, having put a
little Money in my Pocket, I
considered the different Situation
of the Mind, in Circumstances of Ease,
from those of Depression and Want, I

B

found

found myself unusually disposed to Gaiety, and had a violent Inclination to accompany a few of my fair Friends to an Entertainment of the Theatre; but as Dress always commands Respect, and more especially the Esteem of the Ladies, I began to repent, that in my Hours of Sorrow, I had left at a Pawn-Broker's my Sword and Tye-Wig, by which I was convinced my Character, in Point of Gallantry, must suffer a considerable Diminution.

Animated by this Consideration, I hurried to my Pawn-Broker's, to rescue from their dismal Retreat my Sword and Wig, and render them now subservient to the Interests of Gaiety and Frolick; my Heart bounded at the Sight of my old Companions, who have attended me through so many Scenes of Dalliance, and procured me Admission into so great a Variety of brilliant Assemblies. While I was paying the

the Principal and Interest due upon this Expedient, I cast my Eyes on an embroidered Waistcoat, which had still the Remains of that transcendent Lustre, which once had procured it so many Admirers; I looked at it with an Eagerness which my Usurer soon construed into an Inclination of buying, which I really designed, and was about to give the stipulated Price, when this extraordinary Waistcoat interrupted our Bargain, by the surprizing Relation of its Adventures, which I shall here present the Reader in the same Manner I heard them, without Variation or Embellishment; and take this Opportunity to declare, that I am not excited to communicate these Memoirs to the Publick, from Principles of Emulation or Envy. The Adventures of the Tye-Wig, with which the World has been lately favoured, I greatly esteem, as I do the Author, who has, upon

every Occasion, shewn himself worthy of the Character of Prime-Minister to Mrs. *Midnight*; and though the unfortunate Goose-Quill has lately exhibited its Story, a Story as contemptible in its Circumstances, as it is miserably told, yet I am not deterred from submitting this Relation to the publick Inspection, as I hope it has Nature to support it; and the Publick is certainly qualified, by Experience, to judge of Nature.

S I R,

YOU are now admiring the Remains of Beauty, which I once possessed, and though I am not as yet so much tarnished as to appear altogether frightful, I cannot but indulge a Reflection which gives me an Infinitude of Pleasure, as it calls to my Remembrance, the Brilliance I once enjoyed, and excites a secret Wish that you had seen me in my Days of Ex-
altation.

altation. But as it is impossible that I should ever recover my former Splendour, indulge me a Moment, while I relate the Variety of my Fate, and perhaps you may find your Account in giving me a strict Attention, as I doubt not but some of the Magazines will sufficiently reward you for a Detail of my Story.

Know then, I was originally the Property of a noble Lord, whose Qualities were of such a Nature, as I am afraid will never transmit his Name amongst the Lists of Patriots, Orators, or Soldiers; he was my Master upwards of three Months, during which Time, he not a little distinguished himself by my Means, in the Boxes at the Play; he shone with great Superiority of Grandeur at the Opera; he captivated twenty Hearts at the Oratorio; and to my certain Knowledge, he stole the Virginity from upwards of thirty good-natured

natured Girls, who believed his Protestations; and, struck with my sparkling Dignity, yielded their Beauties to his Arms, in Expectation of his Sincerity being as real inwardly as my Embroidery render'd him brilliant outwardly. Amidst all his Conquests, there were two which I shall ever remember; the one was an Actress, of no inconsiderable Abilities, in whatever Point of View you please to consider her; the other was a Poetess, of superior Intellect, but not so charming.

He subdued the one by praising her Understanding, and the other fell a Sacrifice to her violent Appetite for Finery; who, allured by the Prospect of a Settlement, yielded her blooming Beauties to his Arms, and now shines on the Stage without her Virtue or Settlement; the latter of which, in the Opinion of some theatrical Connoisseurs, she most sincerely laments.

While

While I thus co-operated with my Master in his Triumphs and Glory, I sometimes with him also visited the House of Peers, sometimes he carried me to the Council, but don't remember of ever hearing his Lordship utter a Word at either Places, except in seconding a Motion, in some emphatical Whisper, or the usual Returns of civil Compliment.

A fatal Accident happened which tore me from my Master : Know, Sir, his Lordship, by the Help of a Lexicon, could make shift to construe a little *French*. He was an Admirer of the *Delicatesse* of that Language, and would rail with Virulence at the robustly and harsh Terminations of the *English* Tongue ; and, upon this Principle, was for introducing this mellifluent Language into his own Nation, and would have our *English* Comedians quit the Stage,

Stage, to make Way for his favourite *Gallicans*: Unhappy for his Lordship, he subscribed to support a Company of Mendicants; and, in the first Night of Exhibition, was reduced to the Necessity of unsheathing his Sword, and by brandishing it high in the Air, gave the Populace an Opportunity of being convinced of his Lordship's Valour: The Contest was violent, but not bloody; Victory remained for some Time doubtful; but ah, miserable Event! in the Hurry and Flutter of his Spirits, he, by Accident, tore me in my conspicuous Parts, and entirely effaced my Splendor, by which I became unfit for his Lordship's Service, and next Morning he made a Present of me to his Pimp in ordinary. Under the Tuition of this Gentleman, I underwent the Operations necessary for repairing my Deformities; and had, soon after, the Honour of making a Visit to *Monmouth-street*, where I met for
some

some Weeks with very civil Usage, and was a Spectator to a great Variety of interesting Events.

Sometimes I was gazed at by a Gambler, who would willingly have had my Company to a Masquerade, and by my Means to have distinguished himself at some of our Coffee-Houses, honoured by the Presence of Rakes of Quality. Sometimes a Fortune-hunter turn'd me round and round, not without the Pleasure of thinking, that if I was superadded to his personal Qualifications, he would undoubtedly make great Devastations amongst the Ladies, and become the Husband of a Woman of Quality in a Fortnight.

My Master, who had paid very high for me to the honourable Character from whom he bought me, resolved to keep me no longer, but to let me go to the next

who should bid him a Guinea more than his own Money. An Opportunity soon presented itself : *Bidolpho*, a young *Templar* of Eminence, was at that Time making Love to Miss *Maria Simper*, who was blooming in the Pride of Beauty ; he tried every Art to captivate this coy Nymph ; but in spite of his Eloquence (which was never embarrassed by Modesty) she still held out against this dear Persuader. He bought me, Sir, for Seven Guineas. I was his *Sine quo non* for a whole Month together, and he carried me through all the Scenes of youthful Frolick.

This Man was not destitute of Merit ; he kept me very clean, though I don't remember that he ever allowed me a Day's Rest from the Moment I became his. I have heard it observed by a periodical Writer, whose Property I afterwards became, that nothing is so disagreeable as

Affecta-

Affectation. *Bidolpho* was affected, stiff, and insolent; whenever he had a Mind to display his Eloquence, though upon Subjects very remote from affording Scope to it, he copied the theatrical Tone of one of our most celebrated Actresses; and it was very difficult to distinguish betwixt our *Templar's* Whine, and Mrs. *Cibber's* Stage Cant; he never failed to display my Beauties to the Eyes of the Spectators; and I dare affirm, I hope without Vanity, that I was of no inconsiderable Service in inspiring him with Fortitude and manly Resolution.

While I was thus concerned in the weighty Matters of the Law, and was engaged at the same Time in a Variety of Love-Intrigues, an Accident, never to be forgotten, fully'd my Reputation, and reduced me to a lower Sphere than I had been accustomed to move in; for my Master,

one Night, after drinking his Bottle with some choice Spirits of his Acquaintance, felt an unusual Elevation of Soul; he found himself much disposed for the Company of the Fair, and in a Word, he was instigated by a certain Byass of Nature, to hie to a Bawdy-house, well known by the Name of the *Star*, where resides the immortal *Peter Wood*, and dispenses the nocturnal Revelries of *Venus*. Our *Templar* was warm in caressing a favourite Wench, when in the Moment of his Dalliance a large Bowl of Anagus was overfet by the Struggle, and poured upon me its crimson Libations; he swore, he raged, and threatened a thousand Curses on *Peter*, for that he had suffered the most sensible Mortification in my Misfortune. I was soon dismissed his Service, he presented me to a Player of his Acquaintance, who, it must be confessed, used me with great Tendernefs; he sometimes made me
appear

appear on the Stage whenever he was to play the Part of a shabby Poet, or reduced Rake. I have been hissed, clapped, and groaned at in this Master's Service, who, to speak the Truth, had no great Propensity to blushing; and many a fine Actress have I had the Pleasure to lie with; for my Master was of Eminence, and had Interest enough to procure by his Theatrical Authority, Favours of this Kind. I am no Stranger to the great Mrs. *W*——: I have seen her in all her Profusion of uncovered Beauties; and, were it not somewhat ill-natured, I could mention some Court Ladies of no inferior Quality, with whom I have had very intimate Conversation.

I was suffered for some Months to languish in Obscurity, my Master seldom deigning to look at me, 'till at last, moved by the mean Appearance of a periodical
 Writer

Writer who visited him, he very delicately complimented me away, and I was now condemned to a State of greater Obscurity than before.

Mr. *Threnody*, my present Possessor, united as many Qualities as perhaps any other Man under the Sun; he was a Poet, Historian, Index-maker, Mathematician, Memoir-writer, and Lexicographer; but, amidst these Accomplishments, he particularly excelled in Monodies, Elegies, Visions, Pastorals, and Satire: He had a very happy Turn for Panegyrick, and was sure to rise in his Praise of every Character according to the Degree of their Nobility or Fortune: He had a certain Strain for a Duke or Duchess, which fell in proportion down to a Baronet, and was acquainted with the Virtues of every Man's Ancestors.

When-

Whenever he waited on his Patrons, he was sure to make me accompany him, imagining that my little remaining Lustre would procure more easy Access, and a more favourable Reception by the Porter; for it must be confessed, he was pretty often disappointed in seeing his Lordship, and had only a comfortable Promise from the Porter of seeing him next Time he came: My Master has often declared that he Yesterday dined with the Earl of S——, when, to my certain Knowledge, he stopped at the *Blue Posts* in *Covent-Garden*, and eat a comfortable Beef-Stake with one of the inferior Players: However, he used me with great Tenderness, seldom shewing me but upon extraordinary Occasions. He really possessed a great deal of Merit from Nature, and kept himself pretty clear of writing Bawdy, or any thing that tended to debauch the Morals of Youth, nor ever solicited any Whore to give a Detail of her

her Life, that he might insert it in his next four Volumes of Memoirs, in order to make them sell: But Mr. *Threnody*, like the most part of Men of Genius, was superlatively poor, and had Recourse to a Fellow of his Acquaintance to pawn me, which to be sure he undertook; but like a Villain, he went immediately to a Bawdy-house, and sold me there to a Blood in Ordinary, and pretended to Mr. *Threnody*, that he could only raise a Guinea by my Means, which he gave him.

I was now a second Time in an eminent Bawdy-house, and had more Leisure to make Observations than before; and indeed I was often surprized to find myself surrounded with so much good Company: I sometimes sat *Tête a Tête* with a young Duke, who I am sure had not much Time to attend to the Business of the Nation, he spent so much of it with
Mr.

Mr. *Blusblefs* my Master, who taught him the necessary Qualifications of a Blood and a Gamester, and never failed to put in his Hands such Books as tended to dignify his Lordship's Nature, viz. *Peregrine Pickle*, *The Memoirs of T. Constantia Phillips*, *Lady Frail*, *The Oeconomy of Love*, by an eminent Physician, and *The Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure*. I was often surprized to find People of Eminence, who the Week before had entered into Matrimony, come here to celebrate the nocturnal Rites. I sometimes could espy Clergymen in Lay-Habits, who, I doubt not, meant no more than to satisfy their Curiosity; and by seeing Vice in all her Shapes, might be able to paint her in all her Uglinefs.

My Master, by means of his Employment, had a very general Acquaintance; for he had something about him very engaging, he swore, bullocked, played,

whored,

D

whored,

whored, and drank, which to be sure are very commendatory Qualities; he was often employed by the Players to support Parties, or damn new Pieces, because they had no Share in the Representation; he could raise, on an Hour's Warning, a hundred Fellow Bloods, armed with Cat-calls, ready to denounce Damnation on the trembling Bard; he was indeed often opposed by a celebrated Damner of another Party, who has so warmly espoused the honourable, the glorious Cause of Miss N——: But the Blood, my Master, generally came off the Conqueror; and indeed, I must acknowledge I have often repined at his Success; for the other Hero has certainly more Judgment, and is of no contemptible Figure, considered as a Wit.

My Master was a Friend to the Old House, during the memorable Strife about

Romeo

Romeo and *Juliet*; and though he never read ten Plays in his Life, and never one with Understanding, he maintained by the bloodiest Affeверations, that Mr. *Garrick* was the best *Romeo*, and Miss *Bellamy* not a much inferior *Juliet*; the only Instance which perhaps can be adduced of his determining Right, and which, I dare be bold to say, was by mere Accident.

My Master frequently went in the Country, upon Parties of Pleasure, with a Dozen of his Companions of both Sexes; during which Time, I had but rough Usage, being often tossed and tumbled about: Their Conversation chiefly turned upon the common Topics of young People, Plays, Masques, Bawdy-Houses, and Drums. They had likewise a Taste for Politicks; and let it ever be remarked with Triumph, by a certain Party, they

were all to a Man, Friends to the Naturalization Bill.

It was at *Hamstead*, where my Master (with Captain *Tupee*, Captain *O Blunder*, Mr. *Perriwinkle*, and a few more, were recruiting their Spirits) proposed a Walk to *Primrose-Hill*, when *Tupee* espied a Female advance, which looked like a delicious Morfel; he immediately made the Attack, but to his and his Companions great Surprize, a Gentleman soon came up who knew the young Lady, and boldly resented the Affront offered to her Delicacy. Animated in the Defence of injured Beauty, he dealt some effective Blows on *Tupee* and his Friends. *Blushless* offered to fight the Gentleman alone, and stripped for that Purpose, but seeing some more Gentlemen advance, as Bloods are always Cowards, they soon shewed the Dexterity of their Heels, and
in

in the Fray, I was left behind without a Master or Owner.

One of the Gentlemen espied me, and searching my Pockets, found to his great Surprise, Letters subscribed by Men of great Note, generally importing the Hour that they should be at my Master's House, and hoped he would fullfil his Engagements, and be at Home; which not a little operated on the Wonder of the Strangers, who began to imagine that my late Proprietor was a Character of great Distinction.

They agreed to give me, as Alms, to the next indigent Person they should meet, which they were not long in doing; for in less than half an Hour, I became the Property of an industrious poor Man, who sold me in a few Days to a Writer in the Six-Clerks-Office, who has Chambers

bers in *New-Inn*, and greatly distinguishes himself in *Somerset-Gardens*. This Gentleman had just purchased a Laced-Hat in *Monmouth-street*, a Place where I have had the Honour to be shewn, and looked upon himself as a Smart of the first Order; he fancied himself a superlative Critic, and made a very brilliant Figure the first Night of *Moore's Gil Blas*; he had learned by Rote, some technical Terms in Criticism, such as *The Play wants Business*; *The Plot is intricate*; *The Language is Bombast*; *The Characters are not marked*. Thus furnished for the World, our Clerk often forgot his proper Sphere, and really imagined the Fate of a literary Production depended on his single Patronage. Though he seldom got more than Twenty Shillings a Week, yet he frequented Plays, Coffee-Houses, and every *Saturday* Night in the Year, an inferior Bawdy-House, where I

was

was sure to be his Companion, as he gained Courage by my Presence, and was enabled to talk of Intrigues he never engaged in, and boast of Acquaintance he never saw. He pretended to know personally all the Stage Heroines, tho' he never saw them but from the Two Shilling Gallery; and could inform you of great Mens Opinions concerning Bills in Parliament: In short, *Strutt* was a finished Coxcomb, and needed only an Advance in Fortune, to have made him a compleat Town Prodigy: And to do him Justice, he bears so great a Resemblance to Mr. Secretary *Sing-Song*, that he has often been mistaken for his Son. *Strutt* shines at *Sam's*, opposite *St. Clement's*, and sometimes visits the renowned Mr. *Sedgely*, though he is under some Restraint in his Presence, as conscious of this Author's great Capacity, and remarkable Talents for Argument. He likewise figures it in the gilded Room at the *Robin-hood*,

good, but having no Talents for Oratory,
he has not yet ventured to open his
Mouth amongst the Declaimers in the
upper Regions.

N. B. *In a few Days will be published,*
The SECOND PART,
In which will be Introduced
The Episode of a PETTICOAT,
CONTAINING
Some Secret Histories of several well known
LADIES.

